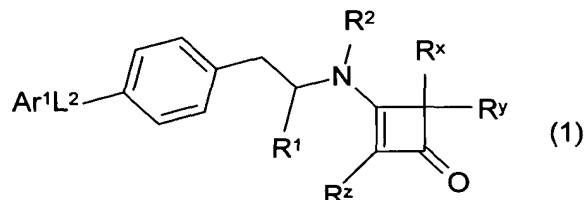


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (1):



wherein:

Ar¹ is an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic group;

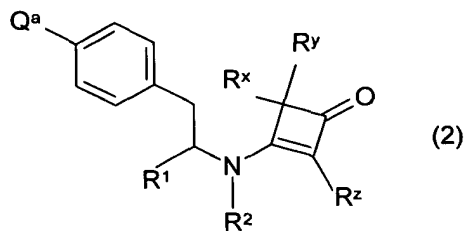
L² is a linker group selected from -N(R⁴)- [where R⁴ is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted straight or branched C₁-6alkyl group], -CON(R⁴)- or and -S(O)₂N(R⁴)-;

R¹ is a carboxylic acid (-CO₂H) or a derivative or biostere thereof;

R² is a hydrogen atom or a C₁-6alkyl group;

R^x, R^y and R^z which may be the same or different is are each an atom or group - L¹(Alk¹)_n(R³)_v in which L¹ is a covalent bond or a linker atom or group, Alk¹ is an optionally substituted aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chain, R³ is a hydrogen or halogen atom or group selected from -OR^{3a} [where R^{3a} is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted straight or branched C₁-6alkyl group or C₃-8cycloalkyl group], -SR^{3a}, -CN or and an optionally substituted cycloaliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic, polycycloaliphatic, heteropolycycloaliphatic, aromatic or heteroaromatic group, n is zero or the integer 1 and v is the integer 1, 2 or 3 provided that when n is zero and L¹ is a covalent bond v is the integer 1; or R^z is an atom or group as previously defined and R^x and R^y are joined together to form an optionally substituted spiro linked cycloaliphatic or heterocycloaliphatic group; and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof;

which comprises reacting a compound of formula (2):



wherein:

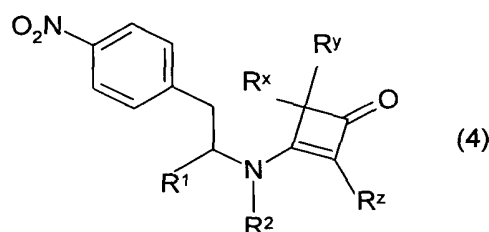
Q^a is a group $-N(R^4)H$;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof;

with a compound Ar^1W wherein W is a group selected from X^1 (wherein X^1 is a leaving atom or group), $-COX^2$ (wherein X^2 is a halogen atom or a $-OH$ group) ~~or~~ and $-SO_2X^3$ (in which X^3 is a halogen atom).

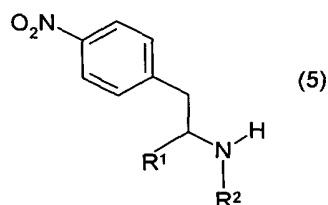
2. (original) A process according to Claim 1 wherein the reaction is carried out in a solvent in the presence of an acid when W is the group X^1 .
3. (currently amended) A process according to Claim 2 wherein the solvent is selected from an alcohol, ether, acetic acid, water, acetonitrile, substituted amide ~~or~~ and ester.
4. (original) A process according to Claim 2 wherein the reaction is carried out in an alcohol in the presence of an acid catalyst.
5. (original) A process according to Claim 1 wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of a base, an organic amine or a cyclic amine and an organic solvent when W is the group COX^2 and X^2 is a halogen atom.
6. (currently amended) A process according to Claim 5 wherein the organic solvent is selected from a halogenated hydrocarbon, a dipolar aprotic solvent, an ether ~~or~~ and an ester.

7. (original) A process according to Claim 1 wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of a condensing agent and a halogenated hydrocarbon, dipolar aprotic or an ether solvent when W is the group CO₂H.
8. (original) A process according to Claim 1 wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of a base, an organic amine or a cyclic amine and a halogenated hydrocarbon, dipolar aprotic or an ether solvent when W is the group SO₂X³.
9. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any one of Claims 1—8~~ claim 1 wherein the compound of formula (2) is prepared by reduction of a compound of formula (4):

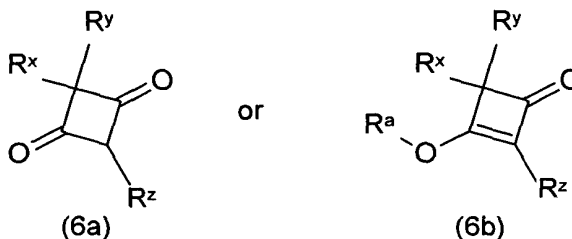


10. (original) A process according to Claim 9 wherein the reduction is carried out by catalytic hydrogenation or by chemical reduction.
11. (currently amended) A process according to Claim 1 ~~or Claim 9~~ wherein R⁴ is a hydrogen atom.

12. (original) A process according to Claim 9 wherein the compound of formula (4) is prepared by reaction of a compound of formula (5):



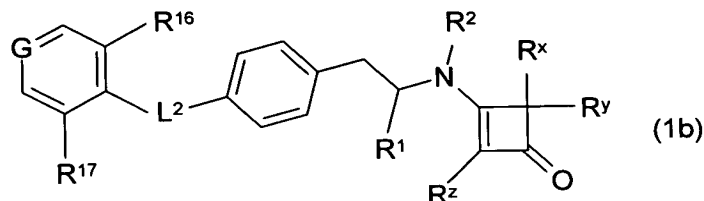
with a compound of formula (6a) or (6b):



wherein R^a represents a C₁-6alkyl group or a silyl group.

13. (original) A process according to Claim 12 wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of an organic solvent.
14. (currently amended) A process according to Claim 13 wherein the solvent is selected from an aromatic hydrocarbon, a halogenated hydrocarbon ~~or~~ and an ester.
15. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any one of Claims 1—14~~ Claim 1 wherein R¹ is the group -CO₂Alk⁷.
16. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any one of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1 which comprises subsequently interconverting a compound of formula (1) to another compound of formula (1).
17. (original) A process according to Claim 16 which comprises hydrolysing a compound of formula (1) in which R¹ is -CO₂Alk⁷ to produce a compound of formula (1) in which R¹ is -CO₂H.
18. (original) A process according to Claim 16 which comprises esterifying a compound of formula (1) in which R¹ is -CO₂H to produce a compound of formula (1) in which R¹ is -CO₂Alk⁷.

19. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any one of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1 for the preparation of compounds of formula (1b):

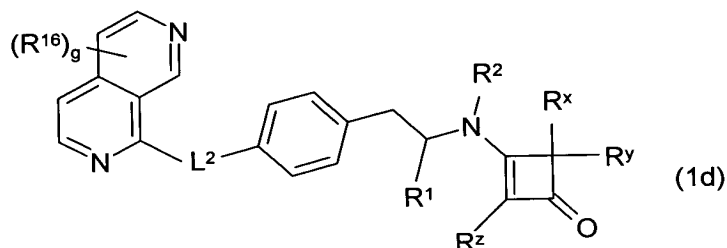


wherein

-G= is $-\text{CR}^{18}=$, $-\text{N}=\text{}$ or $-\text{N}(\text{O})=$;

R^{16} , R^{17} and R^{18} , which may be the same or different, ~~is~~ are each a hydrogen atom or an atom or group $-\text{L}^3(\text{Alk}^2)_t\text{L}^4(\text{R}^5)_u$;
and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.

20. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any one of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1 for the preparation of compounds of formula (1d):



wherein

g is the integer 1, 2, 3 or 4;

R^{16} , is an atom or group $-\text{L}^3(\text{Alk}^2)_t\text{L}^4(\text{R}^5)_u$;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.

21. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any one of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1 for the preparation of:

ethyl (2S)-2-[(2-bromo-3-oxospiro[3.5]non-1-en-1-yl)amino]-3-{4-[(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)amino]phenyl}propanoate;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.

22. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any one of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1 for the preparation of:

ethyl (2*S*)-2-(2-bromo-3-oxo-spiro[3.5]non-1-en-1-ylamino)-3-[4-([2,7]naphthyridin-1-ylamino)phenyl]propanoate;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.

23. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any one of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1 for the preparation of:

ethyl (2*S*)-2-[(2-isopropylsulfanyl-3-oxo-7-oxa-spiro[3.5]non-1-en-1-yl)amino]-3-[4-([2,7]naphthyridin-1-ylamino)phenyl]propanoate;

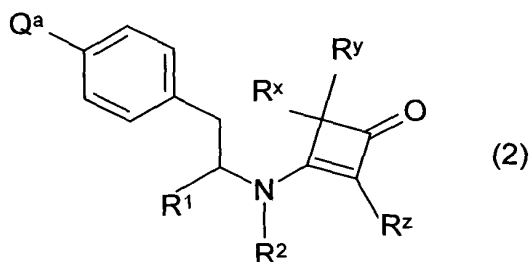
and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.

24. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any preceding one of the Claims~~ Claim 1 for the preparation of:

2-hydroxyethyl (2*S*)-2-(2-bromo-3-oxo-spiro[3.5]non-1-en-1-ylamino)-3-{4-[(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)amino]phenyl}propanoate;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.

25. (currently amended) A compound of formula (2):



wherein:

~~R¹, R², R³, R⁴ and R⁵ are as defined in Claim 1;~~

R¹ is a carboxylic acid (-CO₂H) or a derivative or biostere thereof;

R² is a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₆alkyl group;

R^x, R^y and R^z which may be the same or different is are each an atom or group -L¹(Alk¹)_n(R³)_v in which L¹ is a covalent bond or a linker atom or group, Alk¹ is an optionally substituted aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chain, R³ is a hydrogen or halogen atom or group selected from -OR^{3a} [where R^{3a} is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted straight or branched C₁₋₆alkyl group or C₃₋₈cycloalkyl group], -SR^{3a}, -CN and an optionally substituted cycloaliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic, polycycloaliphatic, heteropolycycloaliphatic, aromatic or heteroaromatic group, n is zero or the integer 1 and v is the integer 1, 2 or 3 provided that when n is zero and L¹ is a covalent bond v is the integer 1; or R^z is an atom or group as previously defined and R^x and R^y are joined together to form an optionally substituted spiro linked cycloaliphatic or heterocycloaliphatic group;

Q^a is a group -N(R⁴)H;

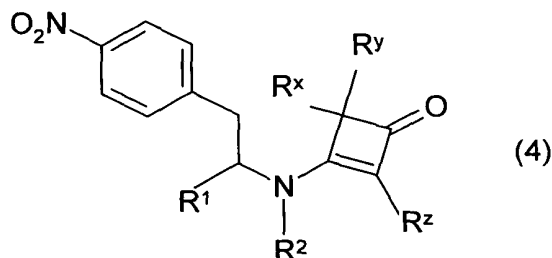
R⁴ is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted straight or branched C₁₋₆alkyl group;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.

26. (original) A compound according to Claim 25 which is:

3-(4-aminophenyl)-2(S)-(3-oxo-7-oxaspiro[3.5]non-1-en-1-ylamino)-propionic acid hydroxyethyl ester.

27. (original) A compound of formula (4):



wherein:

R^1, R^2, R^x, R^y and R^z are as defined in Claim 1;

R^1 is a carboxylic acid ($-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$) or a derivative or biostere thereof;

R^2 is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group;

R^x, R^y and R^z which may be the same or different is are each an atom or group $-\text{L}^1(\text{Alk}^1)_n(\text{R}^3)_v$ in which L^1 is a covalent bond or a linker atom or group, Alk^1 is an optionally substituted aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chain, R^3 is a hydrogen or halogen atom or group selected from $-\text{OR}^{3a}$ [where R^{3a} is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{1-6} alkyl group or C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group], $-\text{SR}^{3a}$, $-\text{CN}$ and an optionally substituted cycloaliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic, polycycloaliphatic, heteropolycycloaliphatic, aromatic or heteroaromatic group, n is zero or the integer 1 and v is the integer 1, 2 or 3 provided that when n is zero and L^1 is a covalent bond v is the integer 1; or R^z is an atom or group as previously defined and R^x and R^y are joined together to form an optionally substituted spiro linked cycloaliphatic or heterocycloaliphatic group; and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.

28. (original) A compound according to Claim 27 which is:

3-(4-nitrophenyl)-2(S)-(3-oxo-7-oxaspiro[3.5]non-1-en-1-ylamino)propionic acid hydroxyethyl ester.